

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Monday, April 5, 2010
Bangs Community Center, Pole Room

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Mary Streeter, Carol Gray, Harry Brooks, Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis, Rob Crowner (arrived 5:00); also: Stephanie O'Keeffe (5:25-5:30).

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:45pm. Mary will record the minutes until Rob arrives.

2. Minutes of previous meeting: Mary moves, Harry seconds to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 29 and the committee approves by a vote of 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

3. Electronic voting: Peggy states that Harrison Gregg and Aaron Hayden will conduct a demonstration of the electronic voting system in use at Amherst College on Thursday, April 8 at 4:30pm in Converse Hall room 207 at the College. They will do a second demonstration at another time for other town officials. If TMCC indicates its approval, the Moderator will adjourn one session of Annual Town Meeting early to demonstrate it for Town Meeting members.

Harry states that a number of questions will need to be resolved before any system can be implemented. Mary states that Kris Pacunas should be kept in the loop, particularly since he had submitted a suggestion about electronic voting to TMCC about a year ago.

4. Warrant review: Peggy reports that the warrant review planning subcommittee met recently and drafted a timed agenda. They have begun contacting the article presenters. Peggy sent a press release promoting all of TMCC's Spring events to all of the usual outlets. The warrant review is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 13 in the Town Room, preceded by a new member orientation to Town Meeting at 7:00pm. Mary reports that not all of the newly elected have been determined; some write-in contests won't be decided until April 15. The committee advises inviting everyone still in the running to the warrant review.

Harry will secure a timer and a hand held microphone for the event and will be meeting with Jim Lescault of ACTV to find out about coordinating visuals. It is believed that a laptop compatible with the ACTV equipment is needed and that all documents to be displayed should be gathered in advance and stored on the laptop. Harry and Carol plan to do a dry run of the setup at 4:00pm in the Town Room next Monday before the regular TMCC meeting. This will be posted as a TMCC meeting so that all may attend.

Carol will update the TMCC event evaluation form, making it generic for all events, and Dorwenda will make 75 copies for this season. Mary will post a message to the TM listserv reminding people to bring their warrants to the warrant review; nevertheless, Dorwenda will make a few extra copies of the warrant just in case.

5. Info forum: Harry will make arrangements to set up the ACTV studio and secure extra parking for the informational forum, scheduled for Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30pm. Four microphones will be needed for the panelists, plus one hand held mic for the audience. Rob will send a detailed press release to the newspapers and Carol will update the flier when the panelists are confirmed.

6. Bus tour: Carol and Harry are organizing a list of stops for the bus tour, scheduled for Sunday, April 18 at 2:00pm. Peggy has already issued a press release and Mary has emailed the flier to ACTV. Mary will post a notice on the town website. Mary and Nonny will contact new Town Meeting members.

7. Precinct meetings publicity: Precinct meeting hosts are reminded to bring cookies to precinct meetings and to contact custodial staff in advance if possible to make sure that the building will be open.

8. Materials for packets: Materials for the second packet are due Wednesday, April 21 for mailing on Friday, April 23.

9. TMCC webpage: Carol reports that the Arab news organization Aljazeera will be airing a piece on the Amherst Town Meeting passage of a resolution concerning Guantanamo Bay detainees.

10. Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12 at 4:30pm in the Pole Room, but may be moved to the Town Room to follow the planned 4:00 warrant review logistical meeting there.

11. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of meeting of March 29, 2010
3. final draft of ATM warrant